

Some members of the Bush administration have expressed their disappointment with the high Shiite turnout of Iraq's elections, fearing that significant participation by religious Muslims may lead to the creation of an overly religious Iraqi constitution, but that is the danger, the danger risked by invading a country when you will not admit the real reason you are there in the first place.

Are we there to stabilize Iraq so we can control their oil resources? Are we there to force our notions of democracy onto the Iraqi people? Or are we there to honor the Iraqi voters, voters who went to the polls because they want to control their own destiny?

The most important thing to recognize is that Iraq will not resemble the United States, and Iraq's constitution will not be an updated version of our own. Mr. Speaker, it has become clear that we cannot keep our troops stationed halfway around the world with the hope that Iraq will become a Middle Eastern version of the United States.

But the elections do demonstrate that the Iraqi people are prepared to manage their own affairs. That is why, now that Iraq's elections are completed, the United States must ensure that the people of Iraq control their own affairs as the country transitions towards democracy.

We can do this by supporting the Iraqi people, not through our military, but through international cooperation to help rebuild Iraq's economic and physical infrastructure.

We owe this to the people of Iraq, who are being killed by the thousands. We owe it to our troops who are sitting ducks for the terrorists, and we owe it to the nearly 1,500 American troops who have died in this ill-conceived misadventure, as well as the 11,000 who have been severely wounded.

To help the situation in Iraq, I have introduced H. Con. Res. 35, which is legislation that will help Iraq secure its own future and ensure that America's role in Iraq actually does make America safer. So far, 27 of my House colleagues have signed on as cosponsors of this important legislation.

My plan for Iraq is part of a larger strategy that I call SMART security, which is a Sensible Multilateral American Response to Terrorism that will ensure America's security by relying on smarter politics.

Mr. Speaker, let me be clear; we should not abandon Iraq. There is still a critical role for the United States in providing the developmental aid that can help create a robust civil society, build schools and water processing plants, and ensure that Iraq's economic infrastructure becomes fully viable.

Instead of troops, we need to send scientists, educators, urban planners and constitutional experts to help rebuild Iraq's flagging economic and physical infrastructure.

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL YOUTH COORDINATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I spent a good part of my life in coaching, dealing with young people, and not long ago, I had a call from a young man whom I had not heard from for about 7 or 8 years.

This young man was abandoned by his father in infancy and then by his mother when he was 12, and he spent basically 2 years on his own on the streets, and he spent some time in a group home and, needless to say, had a very difficult life. Maybe things are getting a little better now, but unfortunately, this story is not unusual. It happens more and more frequently.

The National Academy of Sciences estimates that 10 million teens, which is one-fourth of our teenagers, are at serious risk of not achieving a productive adulthood. There are 22 million fatherless children in our country. Fifty percent of our children currently grow up without both biological parents. We are the most violent Nation in the world for Nations that are not at war for young people in regard to homicide and suicide. We have 3 million teenagers addicted to alcohol and hundreds of thousands addicted to other kinds of drugs.

I would submit, Mr. Speaker, that this level of dysfunction among our young people is a greater threat to the long-term well-being of our Nation than terrorism. That is an extreme statement, but I really believe it is true.

The Federal Government has responded to this problem by creating more than 150 youth-serving programs spread over 12 agencies. Most of these programs are in Health and Human Services, Department of Education, Department of Justice.

The problem is that many of these programs are duplicative. Most have not been evaluated for effectiveness. Many of them do not serve the function for which they were designed. Many have no clear mission or goals. There is often little communication between agencies and programs, and there is unnecessary complexity in obtaining youth services. For instance, someone in foster care may have to deal with four or five different agencies, and for

a young person in foster care that is almost impossible to negotiate.

The General Accounting Office calls Federal response to youth programs a perfect example of "mission fragmentation," and it recommends coordination, consolidation and streamlining of youth-serving programs.

The White House Task Force on Disadvantaged Youth did a study and they arrived at a similar conclusion, that we had a tremendous amount of dysfunction and disorganization in our youth-serving programs.

Therefore, at the request of numerous youth-serving agencies, we have drafted the Federal Youth Coordination Act which will be introduced tomorrow. This bill creates a council composed of members of all 12 youth-serving agencies. This council will have to meet at least four times a year. The Council will be charged with basically five different tasks.

Number 1, they will be asked to evaluate youth-serving programs to make sure they are accomplishing what they were designed to do.

Number 2, they are charged with coordinating and consolidating across agencies. In many cases, the way the language of the bill is written, they cannot even talk to each other if they are in different agencies.

Number 3, provide an annual report on progress on coordination, streamlining and consolidation.

Number 4, set quantifiable goals for Federal youth programs and develop a plan to reach those goals. In other words, they have to, in some way, quantify and measure what it is they are trying to do and how far they have gone in achieving those goals.

Number 5, hold Federal agencies accountable for achieving results.

I would ask my colleagues to please support the Federal Youth Coordination Act. This bill will help the Federal Government deliver more services more effectively to a greater number of children. It will be more cost-effective, and I hope that it will receive broad bipartisan support.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my time out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

COMMENDING MASTER SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN R.R. DONNELLEY AND ALL PRINTING GRAPHICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend R.R. Donnelley